THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS

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Director Katharine Lee Reid Appoints Dr. Anita Chung as Associate Curator of Chinese Art

This position is funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

CLEVELAND (Sept. 23, 2004) — Following a three-month international search**,** the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) Director Katharine Lee Reid announced today the appointment of Dr. Anita Chung as associate curator of Chinese art. Chung joined the Museum in June 2001 as an Andrew W. Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow in Chinese Art and with the June 2004 retirement of Dr. Ju-hsi Chou, will assume stewardship of one of the nation's outstanding collections of Chinese art, including archaic bronzes, paintings, sculptures and ceramics.

In announcing the appointment Reid commented: "Chung is the ideal person, owing to her impressive training and energy, to continue to share with the public Chinese art through exhibitions, educational activities and through permanent collection installations." Her responsibilities will include adding to the collection and planning for a new installation in our future building.

Chung said of her appointment, "I am committed to making a positive contribution to the future of the CMA by focusing on one or more areas of the collection for research and publication, expanding international links through exhibitions and cultural exchange endeavors, especially the links with China and through acquiring high-quality art."

Chung added, "The CMA collection of Chinese art—which manifests high standards of connoisseurship—is the result of cumulative curatorial accomplishments. The new curatorial challenge, as far as gallery reinstallation is concerned, is to build upon this foundation of excellence and to continue to develop its potential for public enjoyment and education. The reinstallation of the Chinese galleries for the CMA expansion project offers the best opportunity to consider various effective means to put art and scholarship in the service of a wide audience. What I hope, above all, is to contribute to the expertise of the CMA by extending the frontiers of knowledge in Chinese art and by sharing that knowledge with a wide audience."

Chung received her B.S.Sc. in economics with a minor in fine art and the M. Phil degree in Chinese art history from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She received the Ph.D. from the University of Hong Kong.

Before coming to the CMA as the Andrew W. Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow in Chinese Art in June 2001, Chung served as Curator of Chinese Art at the National University of Singapore Museums and as lecturer and

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curator of Chinese art (joint post) at the University of Edinburgh and the National Museums of Scotland. Among her duties as a Mellon Fellow, Chung researched on the collection and new acquisitions and planned for seasonal rotations of Chinese paintings. In addition, she proposed the acquisition of a Song ceramic pillow (*Cloud-Shaped Pillow: Qingbai Ware* (Jiangxi Province, 12th century) in 2003. She also worked with Dr Chou to coordinate the Mellon Fellowship for Chinese Museum Professionals, a training initiative through which the CMA serves as a host institution for visiting Chinese museum professionals.

She recently completed a book, *Drawing Boundaries: Architectural Images in Qing China*, to be published by the University of Hawaii Press in November 2004. It addresses meanings of architectural images in 17th- and 18-century China. Chung brings to this position an extensive knowledge of Chinese art and culture, as well as a true passion for the Museum's great collection of Chinese art.

Chung's position is supported through a four-year, $340,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. In addition, the Mellon Foundation has made a $1.25 million challenge grant to the Museum to permanently endow the Curator of Chinese Art position, now vacant. The Museum will need to raise matching support of $1.75 million over a four-year period. "This support from the Mellon Foundation is a truly remarkable statement from one of the nation's leading philanthropic organizations," Museum Director Katharine Lee Reid said. "In making the grant, the Mellon Foundation recognizes the stature of Cleveland's Chinese collection."

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is a private foundation with assets of approximately $4 billion, which makes grants on a selective basis to institutions in the areas of higher education, museums and art conservation, performing arts, conservation and the environment and public affairs. Further information about The Mellon Foundation can be found by visiting their website at www.mellon.org.

Dr. Ju-hsi Chou, curator of Chinese Art, retired in June 2004 after his six-and-one-half year curatorship with the Museum. He will continue his relationship with the CMA as a consultant and will assist the Museum on its catalogue of Chinese paintings.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive Museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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